

In the Specification

At page 1, immediately after the title, please insert the following heading at the left-hand margin:

Field of the Invention

At page 1, please amend paragraph 0001 as follows:

The present invention relates to an apparatus comprising a vacuum filler and a clip unit such as used in sausage production processes. [The vacuum filler serves to stuff a casing with a pasty substance, such as sausage meat. The stuffing process can be followed by twisting off, tying off, constricting or the like, i.e. a separation by means of which a location is formed at which no or only a small amount of pasty substance is present in the casing so that a clip can subsequently be applied to this point. Such clips are made e.g. of metal or of plastic material. The clip closes the casing so that the pasty substance stuffed into said casing cannot escape. This is done e.g. in sausage production processes.]

At page 1, between paragraphs 0001 and 0002, please insert the following heading at the left-hand margin:

Background of the Invention

At page 1, between paragraphs 0003 and 0004, please insert the following heading at the left-hand margin:

Summary of the Invention

At page 1, please delete paragraph 0005 and substitute therefore with the following:

[This object is achieved by an apparatus according to claim 1 and by a method according to claim 12. Preferred embodiments are disclosed in the respective subclaims.]

The vacuum filler serves to stuff a casing with a pasty substance, such as sausage meat. The stuffing process can be followed by twisting off, tying off, constricting or the like, i.e. a separation by means of which a location is formed at which no or only a small amount of pasty substance is present in the casing so that a clip can subsequently be applied to this point. Such clips are made e.g. of metal or of plastic material. The clip closes the casing so that the pasty substance stuffed into said casing cannot escape.

Beginning at page 1, please amend paragraph 0006 as follows:

In [said] the present apparatus, the vacuum filler and the clip module are coupled to one another so that a drive, such as a motor, e.g. a servomotor, in the vacuum filler can be used for driving the clip module. This offers the possibility of dispensing with a separate pneumatic or electric drive of the clip module. Such additional drives are, however, not excluded.

At page 2, please amend paragraph 0009 as follows:

The clip module comprises preferably a displacer by means of which the locations can be formed at which no or only a small amount of pasty substance is present in the casing so that the clips can be applied there. This displacer separates the various portions of pasty substance in the casing from one another in this way. The separation of these portions can be carried out by constricting the casing with rings, U- or V-shaped jaws, clamps or bows, rolls, and cylinders, for example. [etc..]

At page 3, between paragraphs 0013 and 0014, please insert the following heading at the left-hand margin:

Brief Description of the Drawings

At page 3, between paragraphs 0016 and 0017, please insert the following heading at the left-hand margin:

Detailed Description of the Invention